

Please rewrite claim 3 as follows:

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--3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the memory location for an application data unit is the same memory location as the memory location for the corresponding first data unit and for the memory location for the corresponding second data unit.--

Please rewrite claim 15 as follows:

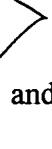
Sub
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--15. (Amended) System for communication between an application program and a network device driver program and vice versa through intermediate structure software, comprising.

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a. a first program object being part of the intermediate structure software and for performing of first functions on data units, said data units being transferred to and from the application program and data units being transferred to and from said first program object;

b. a second program object being part of the intermediate structure software and for performing of second functions on said data units, said data units being transferred to and from said second program object and data units being transferred to and from the network driver;

wherein transferring data units between program objects is accomplished by passing references pointing to memory locations of the data units.--

Please rewrite claim 18 as follows:

Sub C3  --18. (Amended) Method for communication between a network device driver program and an application program through intermediate structure software, comprising the steps of:

- a. supplying of first data units from the network device driver program to a first program object or protocol object being part of the intermediate structure software;
- b. performing of first functions of the first program object on said first data units;
- c. supply of resulting second data units from the first program object to a second program object being part of the intermediate structure software;
- d. performing of second functions of the second program object on the second data units;
- e. supplying of resulting application data units from the second program object to said application program;

wherein supplying data units between program objects is accomplished by passing references pointing to memory locations of the data units.--

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Please add new claim 20 as follows:

--20. (New) Method according to claim 10, wherein at least two of the data units of at least one service data unit are stored in non-contiguous portions of memory.--

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[Please add new claim 21 as follows:]

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--21. (New) Method according to claim 12, wherein the specialized execution environment forms a plurality of network protocol layers and the first program object and the second program object are in respective network protocol layers.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 15, and 18 have been amended, and new claims 20 and 21 have been added. Claims 1-21 remain pending.

In Section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the declaration as being defective because the declaration does not have the signatures of the inventors. A signed declaration has been requested from the assignee and will be promptly submitted when received from the assignee. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure in the Specification. An amended Abstract is attached to this Amendment on a separate sheet captioned "ABSTRACT", as well as a marked-up version of the amended Abstract in the section captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-12, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schwaderer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,393,496).